

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

line 1, change "The present invention relates to a" to

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same line, delete "or the";

line 2, delete "like, which are";

line 3, change ". Control" to --, in which a control--;

line 12, after "predetermined" insert --delay--;

line 13, delete "been";

delete lines 14-16.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-22 by rewriting same to read as follows.

--1. (Amended) A control device for controlling [pieces of] a controlled apparatus performing communications within a network, comprising:

A1 [a] determining means for determining whether [said] the controlled apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to a signal from said control device;

[a] measuring means for measuring a duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when said determining

means determines that [said] the controlled apparatus is abnormally controlled corresponding to [a] the signal from said control device; and

[a] deallocating means for deallocating an identifier, allocated to [said] the controlled apparatus for identifying [said] the controlled apparatus, when [said] the duration measured by said measuring means exceeds a predetermined measuring period of time.

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--2. (Amended) The control device according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the signal from said control device is a sending permission signal to [said] the controlled apparatus.

--3. (Amended) The control device according to claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein said control device further comprises

[a] use-restriction-lifting means for lifting a use restriction on the controlled apparatus to allow the identifier deallocated by [the] said deallocating means to be allocated to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus performing communications within the network after a

predetermined delaying period of time has elapsed.

--4. (Amended) The control device according to claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein said control device further comprises

Al [a] storage means for storing data indicating a use condition of [said] the identifier, and [that] said use-restriction-lifting [means] means changes [said] the data indicating a use condition of [said] the identifier[, said data being stored in said storage means,] to data indicating [unallocated] an allocated condition when [said] the deallocated identifier is allocated to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus performing communications within the network.

--5. (Amended) The control device according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein

said determining means [carries out said determination] determines whether the controlled apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to the signal from said control device every given cycle; and

[that] said measuring means is provided with a counter

for measuring [said] the duration of the abnormally controlled period of time, and when [said] the controlled apparatus is found to be abnormally controlled corresponding to the signal from [the] said control device according to [the determination obtained by] said determining means [every given cycle], said measuring means [measures said duration by incrementing] increments a count of [said] the counter.

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--6. (Amended) A control method of a control device for controlling [pieces of] a controlled apparatus performing communications within a network, comprising [the steps of]:

a determining step for determining whether [said] the controlled apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to a signal from said control device;

a measuring step for measuring a duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when [it is determined in] said determining step determines that [said] the controlled apparatus is abnormally controlled corresponding to the signal from [the] said control device; and

a deallocating step for deallocating an identifier, allocated to [said] the controlled apparatus for identifying [said] the controlled apparatus, when the duration measured in

said measuring step exceeds a predetermined measuring period of time.

--7. (Amended) The control method according to claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein the signal from said control device is a sending permission signal to [said] the controlled apparatus.

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--8. (Amended) The [a] control method according to claim 6, [characterized in that the] wherein said control method further comprises

a use-restriction-lifting step for lifting a use restriction on the controlled apparatus to allow the identifier deallocated in [the] said deallocating step to be allocated to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus performing communications within the network after a predetermined delaying period of time has elapsed.

--9. (Amended) The control [device] method according to claim 8, [characterized in that, in] wherein

said use-restriction-lifting step[,] stores data indicating a use condition of [said] the identifier[, said

data being stored] in [said] storage means, [is changed] and
changes the data to data indicating [unallocated] an allocated
condition when [said] the deallocated identifier is allocated
to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus performing
communications within the network.

--10. (Amended) The control method according to claim 6,
[characterized in that said determination is carried out in]
wherein

said determining step determines whether the controlled
apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to the signal
from said control device every given cycle; and

[that, in] said measuring step is provided with a counter
for measuring the duration of the abnormally controlled period
of time, and when [said] the controlled apparatus is found to
be abnormally controlled corresponding to the signal from said
control device [according to the determination obtained] in
said determining step, [every given cycle, said duration is
measured by incrementing] a count of [said] the counter is
incremented.

--11. (Amended) A computer-readable medium for recording a program allowing a computer in a control device for controlling [pieces of] a controlled apparatus performing communications within a network to carry out [the steps of]:

a determining step for determining whether [said] the controlled apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to a signal from [said] the control device;

A1 a measuring step for measuring a duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when [it is determined in the] said determining step determines that [said] the controlled apparatus is abnormally controlled corresponding to [a] the signal from [said] the control device; and

a deallocating step for deallocating an identifier, allocated to [said] the controlled apparatus for identifying [said] the controlled apparatus, when the duration measured in [the] said measuring step exceeds a predetermined measuring period of time.

--12. (Amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, [characterized in that a] wherein said computer-readable medium further records a program [carrying out] executing a use-restriction-lifting step for lifting a use

restriction on [said] the controlled apparatus to allow the identifier deallocated in [the] said deallocating step to be allocated to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus performing communications within the network after a predetermined delaying period of time has elapsed.

AI --13. (Amended) An information processing apparatus connected to a control device through a network and controlled by the control device comprising:

[a] determining means for determining whether [it] said information processing apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to a signal from [said] the control device;

[a] measuring means for measuring a duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when said determining means determines that [it] said information processing apparatus is abnormally controlled corresponding to [a] the signal from [said] the control device; and

[a] deallocating means for deallocating an identifier allocated [thereto] to said information processing apparatus from the control device when the duration measured by [the] said measuring means exceeds a predetermined measuring period of time.

--14. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein the signal from [said] the control device is a sending permission signal.

AI --15. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein said determining means [carries out said determination] determines whether said information processing apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to the signal from the control device every given cycle; and

[that] said measuring means is provided with a counter for measuring [said] the duration of the abnormally controlled period of time, and when said [controlled apparatus] information processing apparatus is found to be abnormally controlled corresponding to the signal from the control device according to [the determination obtained by] said determining means [every given cycle], said measuring means [measures said duration by incrementing] increments a count of [said] the counter.

--16. (Amended) An information processing method of an information processing apparatus connected to a control device through a network and controlled by the control device comprising [the steps of]:

AI a determining step for determining whether [it] the information processing apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to [a] the signal from [said] the control device;

a measuring step for measuring a duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when [it is determined in the] said determining step determines that [said controlled apparatus] the information processing apparatus is abnormally controlled corresponding to a signal from [said] the control device; and

a deallocating step for deallocating an identifier allocated [thereto] to the information processing apparatus from the control device when the duration measured in [the] said measuring step exceeds a predetermined measuring period of time.

--17. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 16, [characterized in that] wherein the

signal from [said] the control device is a sending permission signal.

--18. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 16, [characterized in that said determination is carried out in] wherein

said determining step determines whether the information processing apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to the signal from the control device every given cycle; and

[that, in] said measuring step is provided with a counter for measuring the duration of the abnormally controlled period of time, and when [said controlled apparatus] the information processing apparatus is found to be abnormally controlled corresponding to the signal from [said] the control device according to [the determination obtained in] said determining step [every given cycle, said duration is measured by incrementing] a count of [said] the counter is incremented.

--19. (Amended) A computer-readable medium for recording a program [for] allowing a computer in an information processing apparatus connected to a control device through a network and controlled by the control device to carry out [the

steps of]:

a determining step for determining whether [it] the information processing apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to a signal from [said] the control device[,];

a measuring step for measuring a duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when [it is determined in the] said determining step determines that [it] the information processing apparatus is abnormally controlled[,];

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and

a deallocating step for deallocating an identifier allocated [thereto] to the information processing apparatus from [said] the control device when the duration measured in said measuring step exceeds a predetermined measuring period of time.

--20. (Amended) A communication system comprising a control device and [pieces of] a controlled apparatus controlled by said control device in which each of [the] said control device and [the] said controlled apparatus [are communicated] communicate with each other,

said control device including:

[a] first determining means for determining whether

said controlled apparatus is normally controlled
corresponding to a signal from said control device;

[a] first measuring means for measuring a first
duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when
said first determining means determines that said
controlled apparatus is abnormally controlled
corresponding to [a] the signal from said control device;
and

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[a] first deallocating means for deallocating an
identifier allocated to said controlled apparatus for
identifying [the] said controlled apparatus when the
first duration measured by the first measuring means
exceeds a first predetermined period of time[,]; and

said controlled apparatus [device] including:

[a] second determining means for determining whether
[it] said controlled apparatus is normally controlled
corresponding to [a] the signal from said control device;

[a] second measuring means for measuring a second
duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when
the second determining means determines that [it] said
controlled apparatus is abnormally controlled; and

[a] second deallocating means for deallocating [an] the identifier allocated [thereto] to said controlled apparatus from said control device when the second duration measured by the second measuring means exceeds a second predetermined period of time.

A1 --21. (Amended) The communication system according to claim 20, [characterized in that] wherein the signal from said control device is a sending permission signal to said controlled apparatus.

--22. (Amended) The communication system according to claim 20, [characterized in that the] wherein said control device further comprises

[a] use-restriction-lifting [mans] means for lifting a use restriction on [the] said controlled apparatus to allow the identifier deallocated by [the] said first deallocating means to be allocated to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus in said communication system after a third predetermined period of time longer than the second predetermined period of time has elapsed.
